

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

I. Please replace the three sequential paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 6, which starts with "FIG. 3 is an explanatory diagram..." with the following amended paragraphs.

~~FIG. 3 is an~~ FIGS. 3A and 3B are explanatory ~~diagram~~ diagrams showing the relationship between an apparatus frame and the opening and closing member of the image forming apparatus;

~~FIG. 4 is an~~ FIGS. 4A-4C are explanatory ~~diagram~~ diagrams showing a state in which a secured member in the center of the opening and closing member abuts against a bearing member; and

~~FIG. 5 is an~~ FIGS. 5A-5C are explanatory ~~diagram~~ diagrams showing a state in which the opening and closing member is locked.

II. Please replace the two sequential paragraphs beginning at page 9, line 3, which starts with "FIG. 3 shows the relationship..." with the following amended paragraphs.

~~FIG. 3 shows~~ FIGS. 3A and 3B show the relationship between the opening and closing door 10 and an apparatus frame 1a. FIG. 3A is a front view of an opening and closing portion, in the apparatus frame 1a, to which the opening and closing door 10 is attached. FIG. 3B is a view of the opening and closing door 10 when viewed from the above, and the opening and closing door 10 can be rotated in the left direction of the drawing about an axis (not shown).

III. Please replace the two sequential paragraphs beginning at page 10, line 16, which starts with "FIG. 4 shows a state directly..." with the following amended paragraphs.

~~FIG. 4 shows~~ FIGS. 4A-4C show a state directly before closing the opening and closing door 10 with respect to the apparatus frame 1a. FIG. 4A shows the state of the left side, FIG. 4B shows the center, and FIG. 4C shows the right side. In the state shown in the drawings, the opening and closing door 10 is open by seven degrees, the bearing member 142 in the center on the side of the apparatus frame 1a and the secured member 132 in the center of the opening and closing door 10 abut against each other, and the secured members 131 and 133 do not abut against the other bearing members 141 and 143.

IV. Please replace the two sequential paragraphs beginning at page 11, line 18, which starts with "In this embodiment, as enlarged..." with the following amended paragraphs.

In this embodiment, as enlarged and shown in ~~FIG. 5~~ FIGS. 5A-5C, the secured members 13 have through hole portions 131b, ~~...~~ 132b, 133b at the front ends of support arms 131a, ~~...~~ 132a, 133a projecting on the inner side of the opening and closing door 10, and the bearing members 14 have downward convex portions 141b, ~~...~~ 142b, 143b, which are substantially in the form of a cone and which can be fitted in the hole portions ~~131a ... 131b, 132b, 133b~~, and can be secured to the front ends of support arms 141a, ~~...~~ 142b, 143b projecting on a component (a frame or a panel, for example) of the apparatus frame 1a. In order to release the locked state of the lock member sets, it is possible to release the locked state and open the opening and closing door 10 by touching both ends of the opening and closing door 10 and applying a force equal to

Application No. 10/553,207
Office Action dated October 2, 2006
Reply filed January 3, 2007 (Wed. after Govt. closing)

or greater than a predetermined force in the opening direction, and thus no additional member for releasing the lock is required.

The lock member sets can be easily formed in one piece with components of the opening and closing door 10 and the apparatus frame 1a by integrally molding, it is easy to set the elastic force for them, they do not require any additional component, and they can be provided at a low price. For example, the elastic force can be increased by increasing the thickness or width of the support arms 131a, ..., 132a, 133a or the support arms 141a, ..., 142a, 143a. The securing force can be increased by increasing the projecting amount or the outer diameter of the convex portions 141b, ..., 142b, 143b, for example.